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Letter dated 24 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I regret to have to denounce the numerous impediments which Rwanda and the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD)/Goma are creating to the normal delivery of humanitarian assistance to the Congolese population of the city of Goma. Unfortunately, those obstacles have the effect of considerably increasing the despair, vulnerability and suffering of disaster victims, especially the most defenceless groups, namely, women and children.

My Government also denounces the harassment and ill treatment of the population of Goma by armed members of the Rwandan Patriotic Army and RCD/Goma, which in some cases have resulted in the vile killing of innocent civilians in cold blood.

Accordingly, further to the request made on 23 January 2002 with a view to facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the stricken population of Goma and the surrounding area, my Government, recalling the relevant provisions of paragraphs 19 and 20 of Security Council resolution 1355 (2001) of 15 June 2001 and paragraph 12 (vi) and (vii) of Council resolution 1376 (2001) of 9 November 2001, requests the Council:

(a) To condemn firmly as contrary to international human rights law and international humanitarian law, especially the Geneva Conventions and the Protocols Additional thereto, the attitude of Rwanda and RCD/Goma in opposing access by the Government to its stricken population in Goma and the surrounding area;

(b) To demand that Rwanda and RCD/Goma:

(i) Facilitate the organization and coordination by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo of the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the stricken population of Goma and the surrounding area;

(ii) Facilitate all operations and humanitarian activities of international humanitarian organizations, non-governmental organizations and all States to which the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has appealed for help, by allowing immediate access to all those who are in need of assistance;

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(iii) Open humanitarian corridors to facilitate relief efforts for victims of the disaster;

(c) Use all means necessary to restore the rights of the Congolese State, which has an urgent duty to assist the stricken population of Goma and the surrounding area, by invoking Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

My Government requests that you have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ileka **Atoki**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative